

# NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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*For Immediate Release*

**JUNE 12, 2006**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 9, 2006, **PERNELL CORTEZ STARKS**, age 36, of Michigan City, Indiana, was sentenced in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, in East St. Louis, Illinois, for the felony offense of Endeavoring to Obstruct and Impede a Pending Investigative Proceeding before the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, and for Making a False Statement in Purchasing a Firearm. **STARKS** was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, was fined \$4,000, and was placed on 2 years' supervised release for the obstruction charge, and was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment on the false statement charge, fined \$200, and was placed on 2 years' supervised release. Three months of the false statement charge is consecutive to the obstruction charge and 3 months will run concurrent with the obstruction charge.

**STARKS** was found guilty by a jury in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois in East St. Louis, Illinois, on June 23, 2005, in the obstruction case. **STARKS** later pled guilty on March 24, 2006, to the false statement charge.

The obstruction offense occurred on May 19, 2004, at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI), Greenville, Illinois, where **STARKS** was then federally employed as a Recreational Specialist by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. **STARKS** was under administrative investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, and attempted to obstruct and impede the investigative proceedings.

The false statement charge was transferred from the Northern District of Indiana for purposes of a plea and sentencing. The offense occurred on April 11, 2005, in LaPorte County, Indiana. The investigation was handled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, and prosecuted by Richard H. Lloyd.

The obstruction case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, and the Special Investigative Supervisors Office at FCI Greenville, Illinois. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard H. Lloyd.